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Public History Newsletter

Public History

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Winter 2011

## Public History Newsletter Winter 2011

Public History Concentration

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### Repository Citation

Public History Concentration (2011). *Public History Newsletter Winter 2011*. .

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# Public History Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

## Partnership with the Mound Science and Energy Museum

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### ARMA Scholarship awarded to WSU Public History Student Student

WSU Public History student Chris Bills was recently awarded the Waymon Underwood Scholarship from the Greater Dayton Chapter of ARMA International. Congratulations Chris!



**The Mound Science and Energy Museum and Wright State University, Public History graduate students, teamed up to execute the movement of the Museum's collections to a new location, as well as assist with the development of standard museum and archival practices.**

The Mound Science and Energy Museum (MSEM) is located in Miamisburg, Ohio, within the Mound complex. Mound Laboratory and the Mound site hold significant places in the history of the Nuclear Age and in the hearts and minds of the dedicated scientists and workers who labored there for more than 50 years. The people, the plant, their research and manufactured items were at the leading edge of the Nuclear Age in the United States. Mound-built components are still in the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile protecting us as a deterrent to attack from other nuclear powers. Mound-built nuclear thermoelectric radioisotopic generators (RTGs) went with NASA to the moon, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn reliably powering

the economic development organization for Mound, has recently made a 10,000 square foot building known as Building 102 available to MSEM. This has given the MSEM Board of Directors the opportunity to move the Museum's collections from a much older and limited 5,000 square foot facility to its new location. This larger facility, built in the 1980s, will require updates to convert the new space into a more functional museum venue. Realizing that specific expertise in the area of museum design would be needed, the Board of Directors asked Dawne Dewey, Director of the Public History program and Head of the Special Collections and Archives, to team with MSEM in making the move to the new facility.

As part of this collaboration, graduate students Liz Haeuptle, Angela Vanderbilt, Jeannine Jacobs, Elizabeth Ash, and alumna Melissa Dalton worked with MSEM personnel in planning and executing the move, which took place during WSU's Spring Break. "I feel like this is a great opportunity for the students to gain real-world experience and to network," Melissa stated. Two weeks prior to the move, the WSU team and MSEM volunteers inventoried and packed their collection items. The packing took two weeks and move two days, but the WSU team started working towards the completion of Phase I in February. Movers from Kettering Moving & Storage transferred roughly 25,000 pounds of furniture and collection items to the new location.

With the completion of Phase I, the WSU team, Museum personnel, and Board of Directors look forward to Phase 2, which will begin the long-term goal of implementing standard museum



Left to right: Elizabeth Ash, Jeannine Jacobs, Liz Haeuptle, Angela Vanderbilt

and archival practices, such as proper organization methods, storage and preservation, and exhibit design and display. Bernie Kokenge, a MSEM Board member, stated, "the MSEM Directors are impressed with the level of expertise and commitment demonstrated by the WSU team." This community partnership will provide both MSEM and the Public History program with many valuable project and internship opportunities in the future. Bernie believes that "this effort has joined museum and Mound history expertise in a very effective way and has generated a great deal of enthusiasm among MSEM volunteers."

There are many volunteer-run institutions that have great stories to tell, but do not have personnel with museum background to know the best way to present those stories. The Mound Science and Energy Museum has a fantastic and important story. Not only was the Mound essential to the nuclear weapons and space programs, but vital to Dayton, offering many bright, young individuals a job after graduation. With the help of the WSU students, the Museum will be provided with the basic tools in museum management and exhibition, but most importantly a partnership in which the Museum and WSU Public History students will continually work together to make sure the story of the Mound is not forgotten.



Building 102 (new location)

their instruments and keeping them at operational temperatures. They are still continuing in the same vein to the outer reaches of the solar system and beyond. The mission of the museum is to collect, preserve, and make publicly accessible the remaining heritage of the Mound Laboratory, its workers and its site. For more information about the Mound Science and Energy Museum, please visit <http://moundmuseum.com/>.

The Mound Development Corporation,

## The Day in the Life of... CHRIS BURTON Armstrong Air & Space Museum

I began my day, Friday, February 11, 2011, with a quick walk through of the museum. The previous day had seen a large school group and tiny hands can do damage quickly. I checked a newly found leak near the Astro Theater, and the simulators, two of which had to be reset. I also found a \$20 bill in the theater. After checking with the staff that worked the day before, I deposited it into the donation box.

After the opening inspection, I quickly checked my e-mail before our tour group which was scheduled for 10 am. The staff brought to my attention an issue with the Astro Theater. The film did not start according to the daily schedule, but, after a few tweaks, it looked ready to begin for the day half an hour late.

With the group tour now under way, I turned my attention outside. I salted the ice in the parking lot and entrance sidewalk. Back inside, I worked to install a wireless router in the classroom. While testing the router, I also discussed the Young Astronaut Saturday morning program with the education specialist, including his needs and purchase requests.

Two upcoming anniversaries raised some questions on speaker availability. I posed the questions to the front desk staff: where is David Scott, what living family members represent the late Alan



*Chris Burton is a 2007 graduate of the Public History program. Chris is the Executive Director at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio.*

Shepard, and what artifacts were lost on the moon? I got those answers throughout the day. We also reviewed the museum store inventory for new purchases, which I make based on staff recommendations.

Back in my office, I sent several e-mails on costs for a new planetarium system, the prospect of borrowing an exhibit case from OHS, the temporary transfer of artifacts from OHS collections to the museum, a merchandise invoice sent to the museum by mistake, and a list of possible activities to the events committee. Once the correspondence was done, I was ready for lunch. I decided to eat off site, hoping I would be able to get more done. I reviewed the final draft of our Association's annual report and the electric and physical require-

ments for a new planetarium system. Following lunch, I ran a few errands to the post office and to pick up potting soil for Young Astronauts. When I returned, I called a donor in California and e-mailed the description of the potential donation to my collections committee. I took another stint outside to shovel slush and broken-up ice.

When I came back in, I had a quick discussion on the Summer Moon Festival and its primary event, Run to the Moon. Our topics for 2011 included providing astronaut ice cream to runners, an appearance by an astronaut, and entry fee.

The local IT tech came in as scheduled to install exhaust fans in the star ball fixture. The bulb is unique, expensive, and creates a huge amount of heat. With better ventilation, we hope to extend the life of the bulb. I then made a call to schedule a tow for the museum's snow plow truck to have the transmission rebuilt. Next, I took a brief break to place a call to ODOT's Columbus office on a section 106 review question for the county historical society.

After the staff departed for the day, I prepared the nightly deposits

and recorded the daily attendance and receipts in my spreadsheet. Once completed, I set the alarm and headed outside – tough I cannot yet head home. The sledgers, tubers and snowboarders that frequent the site (illegally) have taken to building snow moguls on the hillside. I notice a couple and take them out with a snow shovel.

Finally in my car, I have two stacks of brochures to deliver to a local hotel and McDonald's. To finish the day, I will head to the post office and bank to make the day's deposit, arriving home just before 6 pm.

Though this day is in many ways routine, there are a number of activities excluded. I did not deal with any human resource paperwork or projects, including paycheck distribution. I also did not engage in any fund raising for our capital campaign. On good days, I will meet with a potential donor or process a pledge or check. Very few activities are completed each and every day and nearly every possible activity makes my schedule at least once in a two-week period. That is the life of a museum director for a medium-sized museum.

## Extra, Extra...Read All About It: Dayton Daily News Collection

### Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries

*Bill McIntire, Dayton Daily News Archivist*

I was hired as the Dayton Daily News Archivist in November, 2010 with grant funding from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission. Working as the Dayton Daily News archivist is a challenging and sometimes, daunting task. My day to day activities are devoted

to getting the collection organized into series and subseries. We've completed an initial inventory and found that the collection had approximately nine different filing systems – each overlapping one another. This was due to the merger of the Dayton Daily News and Journal Herald. My goal for the two year grant period is to organize the collection into usable series to streamline the research process. Public History Grad student, Phillip Elam, is also as-

signed to the project, as well as additional students and staff from Special Collections and Archives. During this processing phase, Special Collections and Archives staff are responding to requests from Dayton Daily News' newspaper editors and writers. The collection is scheduled to be open for public research in the fall of 2012.

In the meantime, check out the Dayton Daily News Blog at <http://www.libraries.wright.edu/>



**The Beatles at Lunken Airport, Cincinnati, 1966**

special/ddn\_archive/ for updates on our progress and image galleries spotlighting Dayton's amazing people, places, and events.



# Alumni News

**Lee Steiner (2008)** is an archivist at Yellowstone National Park's Heritage and Research Center located in Gardiner, Montana. Lee will be processing their backlog of materials and supervising the summer interns. Lee is working with material relating to the 1988 Wildfire that swept through Yellowstone Park. **Andrea Green (2008)** and **Chris Burton (2007)** had a daughter, Shiloh Victoria, on September 11, 2010. **Karen Jean Hunt (1989)** created a work profile using LibGuides, <http://guides.library.duke.edu/kjhunt>. **Veronica Buchanan's (2009)** internship at the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Archives in Hartwell, Ohio, was extended another year. She put together a gallery guide for their permanent exhibit and is creating a records retention schedule for the Congregational office in Brooklyn, New York. **Ashley Nittle (2010)** submitted the Kiser Mansion National Register Nomination. It is now officially on the National Register of Historic Places. **Jeremy Feador (2010)** recently accepted the position of Archivist/Historian at Baldwin-Wallace College. He is now engaged

to his girlfriend of four years. **Scott Sanders (1995)** was selected for the annual J.D. Dawson Award for community service by the Antioch College Alumni Association. He will receive the award and give a lecture, at the 2011 Reunion



Scott Sanders

in June. Scott will be delivering the keynote address at the SOA Conference in April. **Catherine Wilson (2008)**, Executive Director at the Greene County Ohio Historical Society, wrote the county history section of *Historic Greene County: An Illustrated History*, which came out in August 2010. **Mandy Reese (2005)**, Assistant Archivist for Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, has been involved in exhibit design and implementation; created a blog that connects Nationwide's associates to their company's history; provided research about past advertising campaigns to marketing; and assists the company in remembering its core values and principles through their collections. **Tony Wright (1999)** is the Archivist for the Division of Records Management, Research, and Archives in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He developed the archives and records management facility, which is one of three in the state for city records. Tony teaches history classes at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek. He currently resides in the Kalamazoo area with his wife, Catherine, and children James and Magdalene. **Tiffany O'Sheal (2007)** and her husband are expecting their first child in early September. **Lisa (Pasquinelli) Rickey (2008)** will graduate in May 2011 with her M.L.I.S. degree from Wayne State University. The Dayton Metro Library is digitizing their Wright Brothers' newspapers which will be available online. **Lynn Hanson (2001)**, VP of Collections & Research for the DSNH, is planning the renovation of the Mead Treehouse at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. She is researching a new exhibit for the Hall of the Universe, funded by a grant from NASA, and the renovation of the SunRoom. **Steve Germann (1973)**, Principal Museum Consultant with Germann & Associ-

ates is about to begin an interpretive planning/redesign project with a museum in Chicago. Previously he worked as educator, editor and historic site administrator at Patterson Homestead, Museum Administrator at the Montana Historical Society, Director of the Alfred P. Sloan Museum, and Director of the Henry Ford Museum. **Shari Christy (1995)**, contract archivist at the AFRL History Office Research Division, and **Lonna McKinley (1996)**, Museum Manuscript Curator at the NMUSAF, will be presenting a session at the MAC Spring 2011 Meeting. Their session is titled: "The ABCs of Acquisition & Appraisal." They along with **Brett Stolle (2004)** and **Christina Douglass (2006)**, Museum Manuscript Curators at the NMUSAF, are presenting a workshop at the Mutual Concerns of Air and Space Museums 2011 Annual Conference. The workshop is titled: "Disaster Strikes, Don't Panic: Spring into Action." Lonna was elected as a SOA Council member for the 2010-2012 term. **Jenna Edwards (2009)**, Project Archivist, works for the National Park Service at the South Florida Collections Management Center (SFCMC) located in Everglades National Park in Homestead, Florida. The South Florida Collections Management Center manages the museum and archival collections for five National Parks, totaling 3.6 million items. Jenna leads a team of archives technicians to address the backlog of uncataloged archives at SFCMC. **Melissa Dalton (2010)** accepted the position of Museum Curator, in the Collections Management Division, at the NMUSAF in February 2011. She got married to Michael Pohl in August 2010 and they currently reside in Dayton.

## Note from the Director: Dawne Dewey

**WSU Public History graduate students and alumni are the best!** On March 10, Jackie Frederick, Angela Vanderbilt, Lynley Culpepper, Sandy Bialik and Lauryn Bayliff presented their capstone project on the Duncarrick Mansion at the University Honors Institute "Intersections of Memory." It was a great way to showcase

their research and their phenomenal exhibit. In a few weeks, 7 students will travel to St. Paul, Minnesota for the Midwest Archives Conference Spring Meeting with adjunct faculty Lynda Kachurek and Chris Wydman. Two of the students, Liz Haeuptle and Noel Rihm were selected for poster sessions. The Public History Field Study class is off to

Detroit for a close look at the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village and the Motown Museum. A small but mighty group of students helped move the Mound Museum! And as you can see from the list of alumni accomplishments, our grads are making their mark in the public history field. New applications are rolling in for fall 2011 and

semester planning continues for fall 2012.

Future plans for the program include an alumni reunion, fundraising for program support, and a public history ambassador program to France. Watch for news on all of these plans in the months ahead! Have a great spring!

<http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/hst/pubhst/index.html>



**WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Doing Public History the "Wright"  
Way since 1974.

The mission of the Public History program at Wright State University is to prepare professionals who are well-grounded in knowledge of historical content, professional training and hands-on experience.

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Directors, History Graduate Program

**Dawne Dewey**  
Director, Public History Program

**Liz Haeuptle**  
Public History Graduate Assistant, Newsletter Editor

## 2010-2011 STUDENT PROJECTS AND INTERNSHIPS

### **Beth Hathaway**

*Internship—Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries  
Wright State University  
Project—Boonshoft Museum of Discovery  
Dayton, Ohio*

### **David Brownell**

*Project—Special Collections and Archives  
Wright State University  
Internship—University of Dayton Archives  
Dayton, OH*

### **Luke Liming**

*Internship—NMUSAF  
Dayton, Ohio  
Project—Clark County Historical Society  
Springfield, OH*

### **Brittany Guerra**

*Internship—NMUSAF  
Dayton, Ohio  
Project—Columbus Museum of Art  
Columbus, Ohio*

### **Diana Mercer**

*Internship—Abraham Lincoln Presidential  
Library and Museum  
Springfield, Illinois*

### **Liz Haeuptle**

*Internship—NMUSAF  
Dayton, Ohio  
Project—Mound Museum  
Miamisburg, Ohio*

### **Bonnie Roche**

*Internship—Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries  
Wright State University*

Congratulations to our Winter  
2011 Graduate!



**Luke Liming**

We wish you the best of luck!